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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Masashi TAKADA

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.